

Temporary Exception to the Prohibition on the Use of A/B Switches

Effective Immediately, new Classified Information Systems being accredited (Initial accreditation) are no longer authorized to use A/B mechanical switches for connectivity to classified and unclassified networks. Systems being Re-accredited may continue to use A/B switches as long as the ISSO has submitted a plan to the DAA for eliminating their use and the plan has been approved by the DAA.

When submitting a re-accreditation package indicate "A/B Switch" in the "Other" block in section II-5 on attachment 5. Included a reference to this form in section V-1 of Attachment 5, and a statement in section V-2 of Attachment 5 that states "User/s of this system are aware of the provisions and their responsibilities outlined in Attachment 9 for use of an A/B mechanical network switch".

Personal Computers with A/B Switch Controlled LAN Connections

Accredited systems that have been authorized connection(s) to classified and/or unclassified networks through a temporarily approved manually operated mechanical A/B switch must comply with the following requirements:

1. The user must have at a minimum two (2) separate removable hard disk drives, one for unclassified processing and a separate removable hard disk drive for classified processing.
2. For systems with connection capability to both an unclassified LAN and a classified LAN the removable classified hard disk drive signature packets (established by the LAN configuration during boot up) must be set at a value of "3" and the removable unclassified hard disk drive signature packets must be set at a value of "0" (zero). The A/B switch must be wired so that the cable for the unclassified LAN is connected to the "A" side of the switch and cable for the classified LAN is connected to the "B" side of the switch.
3. For systems with a connection only to an unclassified LAN, the removable classified hard disk drive must not contain any software capability that would allow connection to a network and the A/B switch must be wired so that the cable for the unclassified LAN connects to the "A" side of the switch and there is nothing connected to the "B" side of the switch. The removable unclassified hard disk drive signature packets must be set at a value of "0" (zero).
4. For systems with a connection to only a classified LAN, the removable unclassified hard disk drive must not contain any communication software or capability that would allow connection to a network. The removable classified hard disk drive signature packets must be set at a value of "3". The A/B switch must be wired so that there is nothing connected to the "A" side of the switch and the cable for the classified LAN is connected to the "B" side of the switch.
5. The user logon-Id's and passwords must be unique between the classified and unclassified LANS.

Sanitization before Connecting to an Unclassified LAN

1. The procedure to be used when changing from a classified session to an unclassified session is as follows:
 - The user must log off of the classified LAN, if currently logged on.
 - The system must be shut down (Windows shut down) if windows does turn off power automatically, manually turn off power to the entire system, peripherals included.

- Remove the classified hard disk drive and all other removable media (diskettes, printed output, etc.) from the computer.
- Mark any classified media not already marked with the classification and category and place it in an approved security container.
- Turn the A/B switch to the "A" side of the switch panel.
- Wait at least one minute and then insert the removable unclassified hard disk drive into the computer, double check the position of the A/B switch and then turn on the power to the computer to reboot the computer in the unclassified mode.
- The user may now process unclassified information.

I have read and understand these instructions regarding the proper use of A/B switches with my computer.

User's Signature: _____ Date: _____